

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF ARKANSAS  
EASTERN DIVISION**

**ERNEST W.L. THOMPSON**

**PLAINTIFF**

**v.**

**No. 2:18-cv-49-DPM**

**IVORY T. McDANIEL, Sergeant, Brickey  
Unit, ADC; S. CHAPMAN, Sergeant,  
Brickey Unit, ADC; and JERMY SYKES,  
Sergeant, Brickey Unit, ADC**

**DEFENDANTS**

**INITIAL ORDER FOR *PRO SE* PLAINTIFFS**

You filed this lawsuit in federal court without a lawyer's help. There are rules and procedures that you must follow. These rules apply even though you are not a lawyer.

**1. Follow All Court Rules.** You must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules for the Eastern District of Arkansas. These rules are available online at <http://www.uscourts.gov/rules-policies/current-rules-practice-procedure> and <http://www.are.uscourts.gov/court-info/local-rules-and-orders/local-rules>. In particular, Local Rule 5.5(c)(2) explains requirements for plaintiffs who aren't represented by a lawyer.

- If your address changes, you must promptly notify the Clerk and the other parties in the case. If you don't keep the Court informed about your current address, your lawsuit can be dismissed without prejudice.

- You must monitor the progress of your case and prosecute it diligently. This means complying with all deadlines and replying to discovery requests in a timely manner. You must also follow the rules for motion practice.
- You must sign all papers filed with the Court; and each paper you file must include your current address.
- If the Court issues an Order directing you to do something by a certain date, and you don't, then your case may be dismissed without prejudice.

**2. No Right to Appointed Counsel.** This is a civil case. Unlike in a criminal case, you have no right to an appointed lawyer. If your case goes to a jury trial, though, the Court will appoint a lawyer to help you before trial.

**3. Do Not File Your Discovery Requests.** Discovery requests—like interrogatories and requests for documents—should not be filed with the Court. Instead, discovery requests should be sent to the Defendant's lawyer (or directly to the Defendant if he or she isn't represented by a lawyer).

**4. Only Send Documents to the Court in Three Situations.** You may send documents or other evidence to the Court only if (a) they are attached to a motion for summary judgment, (b) they are attached to your response to a motion for summary judgment, or (c) the Court orders you to send documents or other evidence.

5. **Provide a Witness List Before Trial.** If your case goes to trial, you'll be asked for a witness list as your trial date approaches. After reviewing the witness list, the Court will subpoena necessary witnesses for you.

So Ordered.

D.P. Marshall Jr.  
D.P. Marshall Jr.  
United States District Judge

20 April 2018